

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

29 NOVEMBER 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. USSR

a. TASS has finally announced that the USSR will conduct another series of ICBM firings to the Pacific during the period 2 December to 25 January.

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2. Venezuela

a. President Betancourt is still determined to hold the national elections next Sunday, barring a major catastrophe such as the assassination of one or more of the leading candidates.

b. A party cannot substitute a candidate for one who does not survive until election day; the results of an election held after an assassination would be challenged in the courts and probably voided.

c. Most observers forecast victory for Raul Leoni of Betancourt's Democratic Action Party. However, the election of socialist Jovita Villalba of the Republican Democratic Union is a possibility.

d. About one quarter of the registered voters are youths going to the polls for the first time, and they may push up Villalba's total. Also, the Communists, who have said they will boycott the elections, may vote for Villalba if they believe their votes will defeat Leoni.

e. In any event, the period between the elections and the inauguration in March will be a bad one. The Communist-directed Armed Forces

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of National Liberation (FALN) will probably increase their efforts to disrupt the constitutional succession, which would be the first in Venezuela's history.

f. Meanwhile, in the wings are the military leaders who may well intervene if they find Betancourt's successor not to their liking.

g. Though President Betancourt has taken personal charge of the search to locate Colonel Chenault and those responsible for his kidnapping, his efforts so far have come to nought. The only news has been from a Caracas editor who had a call yesterday morning from a woman saying the colonel was safe.

3. Cuba-
Venezuela

a. The discovery of a large cache of weapons of Cuban origin, announced by Venezuelan authorities yesterday, provides the best evidence to date of major Cuban support for Latin American subversives.

b. There is definite proof to support the Venezuelan claim. The three tons of weapons found include light automatic rifles and

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submachine guns identified as among those shipped to Cuba [redacted] in 1959 and 1960. There were also mortars, bazookas, recoilless rifles, and ammunition of US manufacture.

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d. The cache was found on 1 November on a beach in Falcon State in the north, scene of the most active guerrilla effort. The Venezuelan government assumes that the weapons were sent from Cuba by sea.

e. Caracas will lay formal charges concerning the arms cache before a special meeting of Latin America Foreign Ministers scheduled for December. After that it will ask that the Council of the Organization of American States be convoked for consultation on the matter.

4. Communist
China -
Afro-Asia

a. More information on Chinese Premier Chou En-lai's Afro-Asian swing is beginning to leak out.



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c. The press in Mali says Chou, accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Chen Yi, will visit Algeria, Mali, Ghana, Guinea, Somalia, Tanganyika, and Albania.

d. The Pakistanis have just informed our ambassador that they have agreed to a state visit by the two Chinese in mid-February at the conclusion of their two month tour.

5. Cuba

a. Another London shipping firm says it is willing to abandon its Cuban trade.

b. Embassy London has been advised by Papadakis and Co., Ltd. that it is prepared to keep its two ships involved in the trade from calling at Cuban ports when their charters run out next January.

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c. Papadakis is probably asking the same price for its action as Basil Mavrolean did recently--removal of its ships from the US blacklist. Papadakis operates 19 ships totalling more than 200,000 tons.

d. Mavrolean's vessels account for almost half the present British tonnage calling at Cuban ports and are the largest single element of free world shipping to Cuba.

e. The outcome of Mavrolean's offer is not yet clear.

NOTES

- A. South Korea President-elect Pak Chong-hui's success in winning control of the unicameral legislature in Tuesday's elections improves prospects for smooth operation of the new constitutional government. However, political stability will still depend on Pak's willingness to rule with moderation. If he interprets this victory as a popular mandate to pursue an aggressive authoritarian program, he could provoke serious unrest.
- B. Indonesia-Philippines President Sukarno's visit to Manila is on again for 4 December, according to the Indian ambassador to Djakarta. He assumes its purpose is to head off Philippine recognition of Malaysia.
- C. Thailand Prime Minister Sarit appears to have taken a further turn for the worst. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- D. Rwanda-Burundi Prompt action by Burundi security forces appears to have halted the march of tribal refugees on Rwanda [REDACTED]. There is little doubt that the refugees, who carried only a handful of modern arms and were poorly organized, would have been badly mauled by Rwandan troops if they had crossed the frontier.

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E. Colombia Pro-Castro members of the terrorist National Liberation Army (ELN) are believed responsible for the recent wave of bombings in Colombia's major cities. At least a dozen bombs were set off in Bogota during the last two nights. Two of the bombs failed to explode after being placed close to the residence of the chief of US Naval Mission,